



The President's Daily Brief

10 December 1969

48



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

At Warsaw's urging, Polish-West German economic talks, recessed in October, are being resumed today, rather than in January as originally planned.
(Page 1)

In Libya, negotiations on the evacuation of British troops have begun on a harsh note. *(Page 2)*

Cuban "fence-jumpers" are continuing to sneak into the US Naval Base at Guantanamo at the rate of about 70 a month. *(Page 3)*

[redacted] an SS-11 ICBM firing last September indicates that one result of the current test program may be improvement in the missile's accuracy. *(Page 4)*

50X1

Harold Wilson has beaten back a challenge in the House of Commons to his policy of supplying arms to the federal government in Nigeria. *(Page 4)*

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WEST GERMANY - POLAND

Polish negotiators have asked that the economic talks between the two nations, recessed in October, be resumed today instead of in January as originally planned. The [redacted] Germans [redacted]

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[redacted] agreed to meet. The talks will have to coast along in neutral until the Germans make up their minds how far they are willing to go to meet Polish demands. The major issue is the amount of credit the Germans will offer. A German official described the credit only as large enough to be "interesting" to the Poles but nowhere near the billion-dollar figure informally hinted at by Warsaw.

The Poles' eagerness may reflect their fear of Soviet or East German disapproval of the bilateral negotiation as well as their desire for the benefits of expanded trade. The Brandt government [redacted]

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[redacted] does not want to appear reluctant in fulfilling its promise of renewed interest in Eastern Europe.

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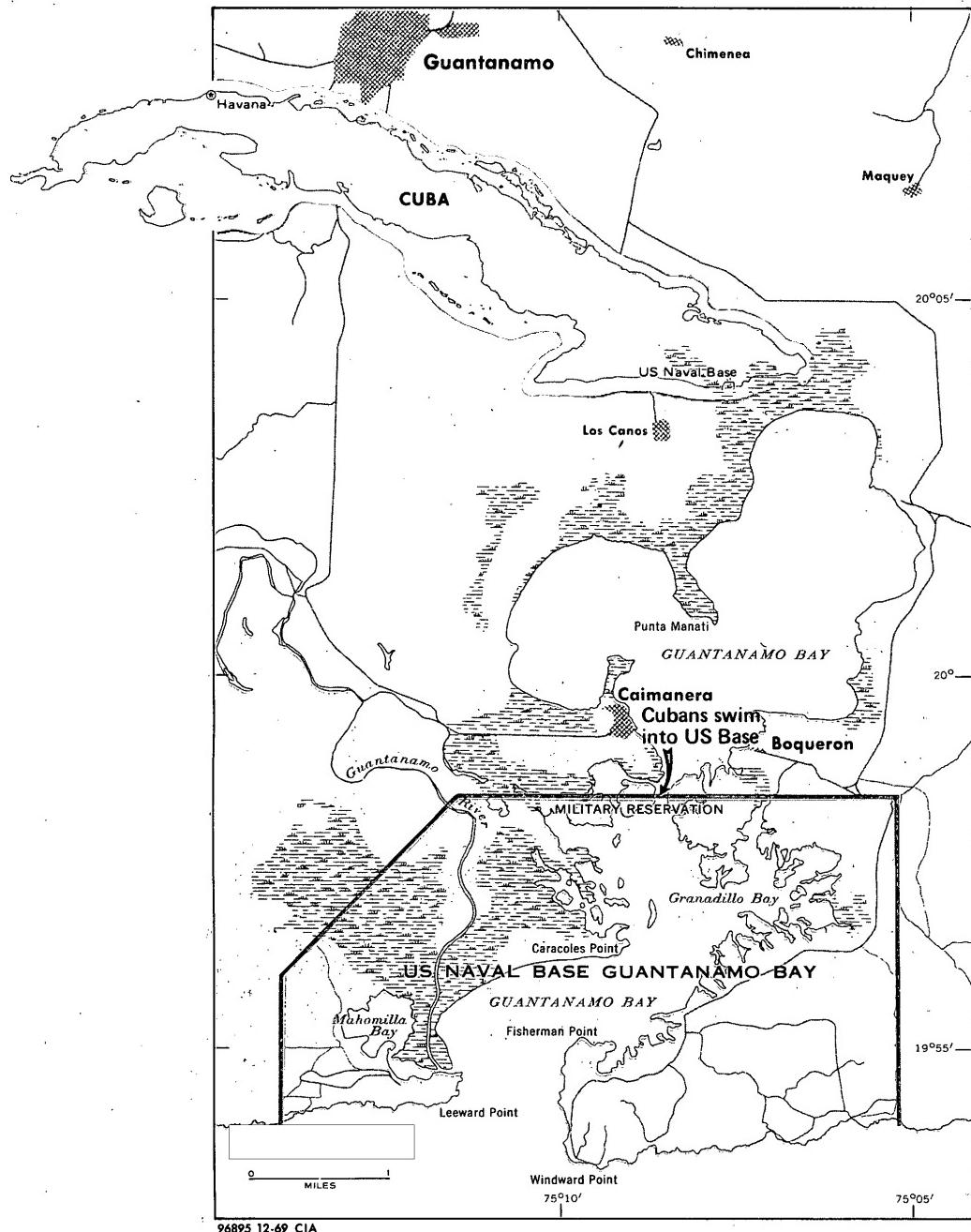
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LIBYA

Negotiations on the evacuation of British troops from Libya began on a harsh note Monday. Captain Abd-al-Salam Jalud, the chief Libyan negotiator and a member of the ruling military junta, said his side saw only one purpose for the negotiations--to determine the date when there will be a complete and immediate withdrawal of all British troops. All other matters were "side issues." Jalud also asserted the British-Libyan mutual defense treaty that was to remain in force until 1973 no longer exists. He further announced that once foreign troops were withdrawn, no others would be allowed to enter.

These negotiations give a foretaste of what the US can expect when our own Wheelus Air Base negotiations begin. It is doubtful that the Libyans will be willing to allow a transitional or any other type of US presence at Wheelus.

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CUBA

Each month thus far in 1969, an average of seventy disenchanted Cubans have sneaked into the US Naval Base at Guantanamo. Seventy-three "fence-jumpers" entered in November--61 men (16 or older), 8 women, and 4 children. Fence-jumpers come in when and how they can; a significant number swim in.

Blue collar workers make up the largest occupational group in most months--42 of them in November. The rest of the November group included 6 students, 8 military deserters, and 5 "professionals"--a commercial artist, a dental assistant, a dental technician, a jeweler, and an optometrist.

The reasons the fence-jumpers have for defecting are varied and personal--only a few are ideologically motivated. Many, particularly students and military deserters, want to escape the hard work in the cane fields.

We do not know how many would-be fence-jumpers have been caught by security forces on the Cuban side of the fence. There are no indications that any special security measures have been ordered to reduce the flow, nor is there evidence that organized assistance is available for those planning to defect.

Castro could have most fence-jumpers kept out of the naval base if he wanted to. The fact that they are still coming at a fairly steady rate seems to indicate that security officials are purposely looking the other way. More than likely, Castro sees the base as a convenient dumping ground for Cubans who are not responsive to revolutionary ideology.

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NOTES

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USSR: [redacted]
an SS-11 firing on 29 September suggests that one result of the current test program will be improvement in missile accuracy. [redacted]

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United Kingdom: Prime Minister Wilson yesterday beat back a challenge to his policy of supplying arms to the Nigerians by a vote of 254 to 84 in the House of Commons. Despite Wilson's usual clever footwork, the size of the vote against his position on this issue makes it clear that it will continue to be troublesome. This will be especially so, if as is expected, Wilson calls for national elections some time next year.

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